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NRC Seeks Public Comment on Environmental Issues for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant License Renewal

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today announced its intention to develop and publish an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed license renewal of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2, and is seeking public comment on issues to be covered by the report.

NRC staff will conduct two public meetings in San Luis Obispo on Aug. 5 to describe the EIS process and receive public comment on the scope of the report. Comments may also be submitted in writing through August 31.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) submitted its license renewal application for Diablo Canyon on Nov. 23, 2009, seeking to extend the licenses for an additional 20 years beyond the current expiration dates of Nov. 2, 2024, for Unit 1 and Aug. 26, 2025, for Unit 2. The NRC conducted a public “scoping” process for an EIS in early 2010. However, in May 2010, the NRC suspended its review of the application at PG&E’s request. The NRC staff has decided to resume its review and re-open the scoping process and proceed with developing the EIS.

The Aug. 5 public meetings will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott San Luis Obispo, 1605 Calle Joaquin Road. The first session will run from 1:30-4:30 p.m., and the second from 7-10 p.m. These meetings will be transcribed. NRC staff will also be available to meet informally with members of the public for an hour before each session. Please be advised that comments or information provided to the staff outside of the public meetings will not be included in the docket.

Written comments may be submitted over the federal government’s rulemaking website, www.regulations.gov, using Docket ID NRC-2009-0552, or by mail to Cindy Bladey, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: OWFN-12 H08, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.